

HB 5372

Public Testimony in Support of HB 5372

My name is Jennifer Zabetakis, a resident of Tolland, Connecticut. I fully support HB 5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

HB 5372 will provide the cohesive partnership needed to bring to reality all of the good work that has been made in the state of Connecticut for our youngest Dyslexic residents.

I have been lucky enough to experience one teacher that had been trained in the identification of and appropriate interventions for Dyslexia. This teacher was able to provide accurate identification and appropriate interventions that resulted in measurable progress. Unfortunately, a teacher with this type of training is an extremely rare gem here in the state of Connecticut.

Higher Education has an obligation to prepare Connecticut teachers for the students of today who are demanding a quality education. Dyslexia is in each and every classroom. We can no longer ignore these students who are begging for our help while they fall further and further behind. We can no longer expect our local cities and towns to continue to train their teachers in order to get them up to the basic standards of today. Our local cities and towns should not have to shoulder this unfair burden as they have limited budgets and limited training time with their staff. Higher Education should be the entity preparing our teachers for the real world of teaching and dyslexia is part of each and every teachers day when they enter their classrooms.

Connecticut has all of the right pieces in place, due to previous bills passed, and just needs the right glue to hold them together and that is what HB5372 will do.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Zabetakis

Tolland, CT